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Mexico

FAIRS Product Specific

Frozen Food Import Requirements

2006

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Report Highlights:

This report provides information about import requirements for frozen foods entering the Mexican Market.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico ATO [MX2]
[MX]

Labeling:

A "Norma Oficial Mexicana"(NOM) is the official standard that specifies the sanitary requirements that a food or agricultural product should comply with. Labeling is subject to a NOM requirement. The principal and specific NOM for labeling is NOM-051-SCFI-1994, published in the Diario Oficial (Official Gazette) on January 24, 1996. This Mexican standard applies to frozen processed foods, both from local production and foreign sources. The general requisites of this NOM specify that labels must contain the following information in Spanish: name of product, list of ingredients clearly specified, net content and drained mass (not necessary when product contains only one ingredient); name and fiscal address of importer; country of origin; production lot and expiration date.

When a U.S. nutrition box appears on the package, then, you must either prepare a nutrition box according to the Mexican requirements or cover the U.S. nutrition box according to the Mexican requirements or cover the U.S. nutrition box. Enhancements for the nutritional values of the food automatically require a Mexican nutrition box. For additional information on the labeling NOMS, interested exporters can review NOMS: 002-SCFI (Prepackaged products; net content; tolerances and verification methods); 008-SCFI (General system of measurement units) and 030-SCFI (Commercial information-quantity statements and specifications in labels). The Mexican Government has issued 900 NOMS in total, of which 76 are for food and 9 for beverages. The Health Ministry has a website: (<Http://www.ssa.gob.mx/nom/index.html>) where more information on these NOMS can be obtained.

Currently, the following products have a zero percent import duty, when the product was produced in the United States.

TARIFF CODES	PRODUCTS
2105.0001	Ice cream and other edible ices
1602.1001	Homogenized meat preparations
1602.1099	Other homogenized meat preparations
1602.2001	Homogenized preparations of liver of chicken and turkey
1602.2099	Other liver meat preparations
1602.3101	Meat preparations based on turkey
1602.3201	Others
1602.3999	Other poultry preparations
1602.4101	Meat preparations based on swine ham
1602.4201	Meat preparations based on shoulder cuts from swine
1602.4901	Pig skin, cooked in pellets
1602.4999	Other swine meat preparations including mixtures
1602.5099	Other swine meat offals
2004.1001	Frozen potatoes; has an in-quota tariff rate to which a six percent duty is applied in 2000, and will decrease two percent, annually until reaching zero on January 1, 2003. The quota for 2000 is 3,594 MT, and is increased yearly by three percent.
2004.9099	Other frozen vegetables.

Sanitary Requirements:

Frozen processed foods imported into Mexico from the United States require a written sanitary import notice (Aviso Sanitario de Importacion). This is a free-style letter, written in Spanish that must contain the following information: name of product; trade brand; specific quantity; name and address of producer; name and address of importer; port of entry and import tariff numbers. This document, written on the company's letterhead, should be addressed to the Secretaria de Salud; Direccion General de Calidad Sanitaria de Bienes y

Servicios and presented at the port of entry. Additionally, an invoice, airway bill and a Sanitary Statement (Constancia Sanitaria) are required. The sanitary statement must come from the exporting country's respective sanitary authorities (The Food Safety Inspection Service for meat and poultry or the FDA) and must declare that the products, identified by production lot, are safe and fit for human consumption. Some products may require chemical and/or microbiological analysis, country of origin and expiration date.

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Import Permit or Notification: www.cofepris.gob.mx or cofemertramites.gob.mx or gaisa.com.mx

To facilitate your customs clearance process, we strongly recommend you work with a licensed Mexican customs broker with previous experience handling food items